

Westborough Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes: January 9, 2017

Attending: Bruce Tretter, Glenn McLeod, Nancy Siegal, Howard Drake, and Ed Beauchemin, Don Burn

Meeting started at 7:34 P.M.

Approved meeting minutes from December 5, 2016.

BWALT Progress

WCLT Easements Near Sassacus Dr./Water Treatment Plan Abutting the Assabet River – Don met with WCLT this evening re: WCLT easement abutting the Assabet River where the proposed BWALT trail will cross that river. WCLT will draft an easement letter to be included with DCR Recreation Trails grant application due February 1. Ellen Gugel has drafted the grant application and has obtained support letters from local legislators, OARS, and more needed to support the grant.

Proposed Spring BWALT Multi-Town Walk – Jim Robbins has begun reaching out to Janet Pierce at CMRPC to schedule a walk along the central and western portion of the BWALT trail (Gannon Way to Park St.) in April to include CMRPC, MAPC, local legislators, Westborough town officials, press/media, and members from towns along the proposed BWALT trail. The plan is to have two walks this spring: one during the week with planning officials and another on a weekend for the general public.

Assabet River Bridge: Randy Waterman obtained a new quote for a bridge that will cost about \$20,000, will require about \$18,000 of preparation work, and will be single span without the need for pilings in the river.

YMCA Spring Outreach Programs

Livestrong Mission in Motion March 11 – BPAC will have a presence to distribute information about committee activities. No other training is planned.

Annual YMCA Healthy Kids Day - BPAC will be at the YMCA April 29 to distribute helmets donated by Breakstone, White & Gluck. We will also distribute fliers about Spring Festival June 10.

Vision Zero

Vision Zero is a multi-national road safety program designed to reduce traffic accidents. Don asked if the committee is interested in exploring opportunities to advocate for traffic regulation changes in town specifically related to cycling and pedestrian safety. For example, should the committee advocate for 25 MPH speed limits in developed neighborhoods?

Distance Markers on Trails/Sidewalks

American Trails has a program called “Trails of the Future”, a component of which advocates for installing distance markers on sidewalks or trails to encourage more pedestrian activity. Don asked if there is committee interest to work perhaps with the Board of Health to mark sidewalk/trails with distance markers. Bruce will talk with Board of Health Director Steve Baccari.

Story Walk

“Story Walk” is a trademarked program that uses sign posts mounted with sequential pages of children’s stories installed in short walking distance from one another to encourage family walking. A Story Walk was recently installed along a trail in Assabet Park, Northborough. Howard will explore the Story Walk in Northborough. Bruce will talk with Rec. Dept. Dir. Alan Grady about the feasibility of arranging a Story Walk through the June 10 Spring Festival grounds.

Next meeting: Monday, February 6, 2017.

Meeting ended at 8:40 P.M.